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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2005

Approved by:

Russ Nicely, Agricultural Attache
U.S. Embassy, Bangkok

Prepared by:

Ponnarong Prasertsri, Agricultural Specialist

Report Highlights:

Export prices were offered lower but were expected to be temporary, as domestic supplies continued to be tight.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

Indicative Prices (Week Ending Feb. 28):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	450	440	450	-	440	425	420	438	441
WR 100 B	293	294	292	-	297	292	292	293	296
PB 5%	290	295	292	-	293	294	282	291	293
WR 5%	289	288	287	-	291	286	287	288	290
WR 10%	286	283	282	-	289	284	282	284	287
WR 15%	278	276	277	-	285	282	277	279	281
WR 25%	267	265	265	-	269	263	272	267	271
WR 35%	265	261	-	-	267	261	267	264	269
A 1 SUP	234	230	-	-	234	227	232	231	233
A 1 SPEC	231	229	-	-	232	-	230	231	231
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters									

Market Tone

Export prices for most grades of rice were offered lower in response to the increasing domestic supply of rice in the market, as some local millers reportedly released their speculative stocks in order to cover their operating costs. However, most rice was inferior quality. Trade sources expected that the current price slide will likely be temporary, as domestic prices remained under upward pressure due to the concern over the drought-dampened second paddy crop potentials. Also, the government remains fixated on the need for an intervention program, regardless of the strong market prices. As of Feb. 27, 2005, the government bought 4 million tons of paddy, of which 2.2 million tons were white rice paddy. The 2004/05 main paddy crop's intervention program (starting Nov. 1, 2004) will end later, by Mar. 31, 2005, as compared to Mar. 15 in the previous year. In addition, the government's stock release, which is set for May 2005, remained uncertain.

The following are the reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
JAN 9	121,108	-	124	76
JAN 16	169,028	-	293	193
JAN 23	120,044	-	413	263
JAN 30	134,431	136,153	548	362
FEB 6	137,042	140,136	685	477
FEB 13	94,079	121,399	779	594
FEB 20	118,514	121,016	897	729
FEB 27	81,374	107,752	979	878

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for Feb. 21-27, 2005 totaled 81,374 tons, down 37,140 tons from the previous week's total and down 26,378 tons from the four-week moving average of 107,752 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – Feb. 27, 2005 amounted to 978,664 tons, as compared with 878,105 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – Feb. 7, 2005, amounted to 936,583 tons, up 27 percent from 737,879 tons in the previous year.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Feb. 7-11, Feb. 14-18, and Feb. 21-25, 2005 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Feb. 7-11	Feb. 14-18	Feb. 21-25
weekly sales	95,743	97,236	83,747
4 week sum	498,408	438,454	362,939
4 week mov. avg.	124,602	109,614	90,735
Total weekly sales	821,572	918,808	1,002,555

End of Report.